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Scientific Method. Its Philosophy and its Practice. By F. W. Westaway. xix and 439 pp. Index. Blackie & Son, Ltd. London, 1912. 6s. 8x5½.

A discursive work in which the average man, at least, will not be able to see the woods for the trees. The treatment lacks continuity and coherency, as the author ranges from ancient times to modern, from philosophy to science and from problems of research to elementary teaching in the laboratories of botany and chemistry. It is not wholly apparent whether the volume is a sketch of the history of philosophy, a treatise on logic, a reading book of scientific classics, or a syllabus of high school science. The preface leaves the reader in doubt whether the author is more interested in promoting peace between the humanist and the realist, or in demonstrating that philosophy is the subject of all others which prepares the man of science for his task.

Book I, embracing somewhat more than one-third of the volume, is mainly a preliminary sketch of the personality and doctrines of leading philosophers, from Aristotle to Bacon, Descartes, Locke and Hume. The first chapter, however, deals with humanism versus realism, and the second chapter, on words and their elusiveness, has the flavor of a text-book of rhetoric. Book II is entitled "The Logic of Scientific Method." Here the author more nearly fulfills his intention to write for those "who feel interested in the methodical procedure of scientific investigations."

In Book III we find a series of discussions, extracted as examples of scientific method, from White of Selborne, Wallace, Darwin, Lord Avebury, Harvey, Priestley, Gay-Lussac, Newton, Faraday and others. The fourth book is on "Scientific Method in the Classroom." The author has attempted too much. The mature student will find many passages of interest, but the work would be a perplexing guide to a young investigator who desired to test the validity of his methods.

A. P. BRIGHAM.

The Life of Sir Joseph Banks, President of the Royal Society, with Some Notices of his Friends and Contemporaries. By Edward Smith. Ills., index. John Lane, New York, 1911. \$5. 25 cts. postage. 9 x 6.

There is far more in this biography than the tale of the young naturalist of Cook's first voyage, the memory of the mature owner of broad fields who did so much to improve the breed of fat sheep, the dictatorship of the Royal Society. At the beginning of the nineteenth century Banks was the mainspring of all the great scientific research in progress in England, and whithersoever Great Britain in the course of a generation of foreign wars was able to send her men of science. Born to a comfortable inheritance, Banks had never to fret about narrow affairs at home; whatsoever he wished to do he did, whatsoever he wished others to do he provided the means for the doing. For all of forty years there was not a single one of the great accomplishments of British science which did not owe its success to his support and to his zeal in the selection of the enthusiastic young men who might press onward to high discovery. In this narrative we read of his choice of Mungo Park to open the discovery of the Congo, of Nelson to sail with Bligh to collect the breadfruit of Tahiti for transplantation in the West Indies, of his discovery of Hooker in his brewery from which he emerged to become the director of Kew Garden and the great botanical authority of the world. To his home flowed a steady stream of all that was new and strange in the strange new lands then being added to the world's knowledge, and at his home congregated as at a museum all the students who wished to make use of the new material. There has long been a demand for a life of this great scholar and this sympathetic narrative will go far toward satisfying that demand.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

Missions: Their Rise and Development. By Louise Creighton. 256 pp. Index. In series: Home Univ. Library. Henry Holt & Co., New York, 1912. 50 cents. 7 x 4½.

This is a short sketch of mediæval missions and of those of the Reformation and the period of discovery. Modern missions are treated as fully as space permits. Geographers will perhaps find their greater interest in such chapters as "The Modern Problem," "Work Among Colonists," "Civilizing Work of Missions" and "Present Extent of Missions." The author has embodied so